

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

December 4, 2014

SCRIPPS COASTAL TRAIL

Project No. 13-014-01

Project Manager: David Hayes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$100,000 to Scripps Institution of Oceanography to augment the previously authorized Scripps Coastal Trail Project, involving the construction of a new segment of the California Coastal Trail on the UC San Diego campus.

LOCATION: University of California, San Diego, San Diego County

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Public Access

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Conservancy June 20, 2013 Staff Recommendation](#)

Exhibit 3: [University of California San Diego/Scripps letter](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31400 et seq. of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an additional amount of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), for a total grant of up to three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000), to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), University of California, San Diego, to prepare final plans and construction drawings and to construct a Coastal Trail segment on the SIO campus and to install directional and interpretive signage on the trail. This authorization remains subject to the conditions of the June 20, 2013 authorization. In addition, the grantee shall develop an updated budget and project schedule with an updated trail design prior to disbursement of funds for the project.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based upon the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project, as augmented, remains consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
2. The proposed project, as augmented, is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, as updated and approved on October 2, 2014.
3. The proposed project, as augmented, continues to meet greater-than-local needs.
4. The project environmental effects remain unchanged from those described in the June 30, 2013 staff recommendation and there are no other conditions requiring additional environmental documentation for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends that the Conservancy augment its June 20, 2013 authorization to disburse an additional amount of up to \$100,000 to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography for the final design and construction of a new California Coastal trail segment on SIO’s portion of the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) campus. This augmentation will cover necessary additional planning, design, and construction costs. Subsequent to the original June 30, 2013 authorization, UCSD/Scripps advanced the project through permits, including Coastal Commission approval for construction. Because of escalating constructions costs, the cost of the project is far higher than originally estimated. Thus, the project has been scaled back somewhat, although the design continues to achieve the access objectives identified in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation, and additional funding is needed to complete the project. UCSD/Scripps is requesting this augmentation to the previously approved Conservancy grant and has committed an additional \$150,000 for a total commitment of \$250,000 towards completion of this project.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy (original)	\$250,000
Coastal Conservancy augmentation	\$100,000
SIO (original)	\$100,000
SIO augmentation	\$150,000
Project Total	\$600,000

The source of the Conservancy augmentation is expected to be from an appropriation of the Safe Drinking Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, Public Resources Code Sections 75001 et seq. (Proposition 84). Proposition 84 authorizes the use of these funds for projects that promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state pursuant to the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, Division 21 of the Public Resources Code. As described in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2), the project, as augmented, will create greater access to coastal views, beaches and tide pools by providing a continuous segment of the Coastal Trail that links existing accessways and viewing platforms including the Scripps Meander and Scripps Coastal Biodiversity Trail.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The project, as augmented, remains consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code (Sections 31400 *et seq.*), as described in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2013
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project, as augmented, remains consistent with the Conservancy's current Strategic Plan goals and objectives, as described in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation (Exhibit 2).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The project, as augmented, remains consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, as detailed in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation. However, since that time, the Conservancy has revised the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, by adding an additional criterion, "Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies". The proposed project as augmented is consistent with that additional criterion as follows:

Required Criteria

- 3. Promotion and implementation of state plans and policies:** The proposed project serves to implement the objectives of *Completing the California Coastal Trail*, a strategic blueprint for the California Coastal Trail prepared by the Conservancy in 2003 pursuant to Senate Bill 908 of 2001. The proposed project, which will result in the construction of a new segment of the Coastal Trail with sweeping ocean views from a coastal terrace 145-200 feet above the beach, furthers the goals of the Coastal Trail strategic plan, which requires a statewide long-term commitment to completing the Coastal Trail, including designating funding for completion, maintenance, and repair.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY'S STANDARDS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCESSWAY LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT:**

The project, as augmented, remains consistent with the Conservancy's Standards and Recommendations for Accessway Location and Development, as detailed in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The proposed project remains consistent with The La Jolla Community Plan, as detailed in the June 23, 2013 staff recommendation.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The project design has changed in certain respects – it has been scaled back in response to rising construction costs. The fundamental design, however, is not changed in any material way and no additional significant effects of the project have been identified nor any additional mitigation required. Thus, no additional environmental documentation is required under the California Environmental Quality Act. (See Guidelines section 15162, 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15162).